

HOW TO PASS LIFE'S GREATEST TESTS

(Sermon Series on the Book of James. #2)

Introduction: Five deadly "D's": delay, doubt, defeat, discouragement, and difficulty.

James 1:2-3, 12 (NIV) "2Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 12Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

FOUR TESTS IN THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

TEST #1.... A MAJOR _____.

Hebrews 11:8 (NIV) "By faith Abraham, when called to go... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

- The _____ Question
- At age 75, Abraham was ready to _____ but God was ready for Abraham to _____!
- LESSON: A believer will follow God's _____ without knowing _____!

TEST #2.... A DELAYED _____.

Hebrew 11: 9-10 (NIV) "9By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."

- The _____ Question
- God wants us to base our life - on _____.
- - Not on _____.
- LESSON: A believer will wait on God's _____ without knowing _____!

TEST #3.... AN IMPOSSIBLE _____.

Hebrews 11: 11-12 (NIV) "11By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."

- "Abraham" means father of many _____.
- The _____ Question.
- LESSON: A believer will expect a _____ without knowing _____!

TEST #4.... A SENSELESS _____.

Hebrews 11: 17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

- The _____ Question
- A test of Abraham's _____.

Hebrews 11:19 (NIV) ¹⁹Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death."

- The Gospel reasons that God can raise the _____!
- LESSON: A believer will trust God's _____ without knowing _____!

CONCLUSION: Which test are you going through?

1. _____ Test: _____ God's leading.
2. _____ Test: _____ for God's timing.
3. _____ Test: _____ a miracle.
4. _____ Test: _____ God's purpose.

Mark 9:24 (NIV) "Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."